

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03071 161449Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3071

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UNGA, NI, XA, XY
SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON RHODESIA

1. ON SEPTEMBER 15, NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN
DISCUSSED WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARIES MAYNES AND MOOSE
AFRICAN APPROACH TO SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON RHODESIA.
HARRIMAN SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD MOVE MORE SLOWLY ON
RHODESIA UNTIL AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ARRIVING AT
UNGA DEVELOP AN AFRICAN CONSENSUS ON THIS ISSUE.

2. ACCORDING TO HARRIMAN, THE SOVIETS HAVE INFORMED
HIM THAT THEY WILL VOTE IN SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE RHODESIAN
ISSUE AS THE AFRICANS VOTE. AT THIS POINT, ACCORDING TO
HARRIMAN, AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL
ABSTAIN ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE IS NOT ANY OAU MANDATE
IN THIS AREA. HARRIMAN ARGUED THAT SUCH A MANDATE COULD
BE CREATED WHEN THE AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ARRIVING
FOR THE UNGA ON SEPTEMBER 20TH.

3. HARRIMAN STATED THAT AS FAR AS THE NIGERIAN POSITION
IS CONCERNED HE HAS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM
LAGOS WHICH GIVES HIM TOTAL FLEXIBILITY TO BE OF
ASSISTANCE TO US AND HE IS PREPARED TO PRESS AHEAD.
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NEVERTHELESS, HE WISHES TO CALL OUR ATTENTION TO THE
REALITIES OF AFRICAN POLITICS.

4. WE STATED THAT WE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THESE POINTS
WITH THE SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE URGED THAT
OUR MISSIONS REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH AS THE PARLIAMENTARY
SITUATION IN THE COUNCIL EVOLVES. HARRIMAN AGREED THERE

IS NEED TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM AND BELIEVED ARRIVING
AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS CRITICAL
POINT.

5. WE WILL KEEP PRESSURE ON FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE
SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, WE MUST
MAKE JUDGEMENT ON WHEN TO STRIKE ON BASIS OF CONTINUING
CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY AFRICAN DELEGATIONS.
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